

TALAN

NEWS MAGAZINE



"Get a Grip"



FEATURING:

Wet Campus Policy P.11
Campus Parking P. 3
He Said/She Said P. 24
Special Halloween Insert



Avila University

Volume XVI Issue 2

In This Issue...

In this issue you'll find a variety of things. In campus news, the never-ending battle about parking continues, information about a new environmental group on campus and much more. The feature touches on the new wet dorm policy in Thompson Hall, including a student's perspective. In the sports sections, the fall sports are wrapping things up and heading into post season. Senior soccer players, Joshua Loden and Erin Miller are also profiled.

We've also brought back the political section with political commentary from David Wilson and another "He said/ She said," with new face Emilie Brumit. You'll also find a few pages of commentary in this issue, because well hey, us Talon kids just have a few things to say.

Last but not least, the Halloween insert. This special insert comes out just in time for Halloween and talks about the origins of Halloween, costume ideas, Kansas City haunted houses and much more!

There was a lot of sweat, blood and tears [LITTERALLY] that went into this issue. For those of you that have never been a part of a news team, it takes a lot of hard work and dedication from a lot of people in order to put The Talon together. I'd like to thank the Talon team, iJournalism, contributing writers, and photographers for all the time they spend preparing the contact.

I'd also like to thank the layout editors who spend hours in the Mac Lab mastering the design. The Talon is going for a new, better look that will only get better as the year continues.

Also, who could forget our Talon supervisors, who keep us on track! And finally a thank you to the readers, we can only hope to reflect your wants and views. Enjoy!

*** Be sure to participate in the games & puzzles throughout (pg. 20, 31 & 32) the Talon and win a prize from our PRIZE CLOSET!! Prizes courtesy of The Talon, 98.9 The Rock and 9.5 The Buzz!!**



Editorial Policy

The Talon News Magazine is produced by the students of Avila University. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the TALON NEWS staff, the Trustees, administration, faculty, or staff of the University. The Talon News Magazine encourages letters to the editor. These may be submitted electronically or in writing and should include the writer's name, address, and telephone numbers for verification purposes. Letters can be mailed to the TALON News Magazine Editor, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. 64145. The Talon reserves the right to edit letters for reasons of space, clarity, or inappropriate language. Copies of the Talon News Network Operational Guidelines may be requested by writing to the above referenced address.

TALON

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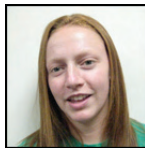
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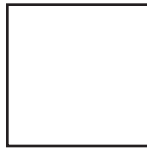
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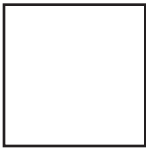
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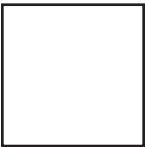
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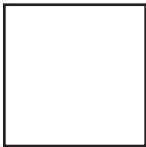
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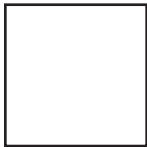
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We're always looking to expand our Talon team. If you are interested in writing stories, taking pictures, or page layout, please feel free to contact me. Additionally, we also appreciate any feedback, good or bad.

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SpenserDavis

Park at Your Own Risk...

Avila University parking is terrible. Not only is it hard to find a parking spot that isn't completely on the opposite side of campus, but once parked you cannot quit worrying about the safety of your automobile. Last fall Avila had nine break-ins to student vehicles while they thought their cars were safe. Nine might not seem a lot, but for such a small campus it's an extreme. What about the cases that go unreported? Many other cars were broken into and no one reports them, simply because they see no results or compensations from Avila.

An Avila graduate, Casey Jones, had her car parked in the school parking lot outside of the Mabee Fieldhouse last fall during one of her volleyball games. She came out to find her window broken and her lap top gone. When Jones reported the situation, she was told by a campus security officer, "You

parked at your own risk, there is nothing we can do. Sorry." Luckily for Casey, her insurance covered it and all she had to do was pay the deductible, but not all students carry more than liability for their coverage, which will not help them.

Why should students who are paying so much money to attend Avila have to worry about anything besides their education or extra curricular activities while on campus? Not only do students have to worry about people breaking into their vehicles, but in some lots students have to worry about flying baseballs as well. The parking lots adjacent to the baseball field are a high risk during the school year for a windshield to be shattered because of foul balls flying into the lot.

Brian Kelly, a junior whose back windshield was shattered by a baseball at Avila said, "It's insane that I have to deal with this and pay for it out of pocket. I shouldn't have to worry about coming up with money to pay for a new windshield when an activity affiliated with the school is at fault."

So why isn't Avila considered to be at fault? You would think with everyone's tuition these days, Avila could afford to replace something that "they" broke.

After getting a professional view on this situation, attorney Thomas Riles said there is hope for people like Brian.

Riles said, "When someone parks in a private parking lot and damage

to their vehicle is done by the party that owns the lot, the individual has rights. The individual can proceed to small claims court with or without an attorney against the alleged party. In many cases the defendant would be held responsible. Unfortunately, many young adults don't understand this; they get taken advantage of and believe nothing can be done."



After sending this to Avila for a response, none was available as of October 3. Maybe in the future we can see different results for these events, for the better of the students.

Colby Ross, a junior said, "It will be nice not to have to worry about other distractions when all we want to do is learn!" 🐾

Tips for Parking on Campus:

- Trust your intuition. If you feel unsafe or threatened, move to a safe environment. Always be alert when approaching your car.
- Never leave any valuables in your vehicle. If you must leave your valuables in your vehicle, lock them in your trunk.
- Always lock your vehicle. Keep windows and sunroofs closed while parked.
- Never hide a second set of keys on your vehicle.
- Don't leave important documents in your vehicle. Including credit cards or statements, other bank statements, or other personal information.
- If you are a resident student, check on your vehicle regularly. We encourage you to move it frequently.

If you feel threatened or observe inappropriate or illegal behavior, contact Campus Safety 816-985-6079 or the Kansas City Police Dept. (Dial 911)

If you have information regarding an incident, please contact Campus Safety at 816-985-6079



As director of student life for Avila, Jason Baldwin attended a national conference held by the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA). Being a member of this group is a great opportunity for Avila University to network with other schools and learn about ideas for improving campus life through activities and entertainment. At the NACA conference, Jason got the idea to invite a group of Aqua Massage Investors (AMI) to Avila for a day.

"Requires no Nudity"

Jason explained, "We brought the aqua massage to campus in order to give the Avila community the opportunity to relax through the ultimate massage that requires no nudity and no physical contact."

Not only did it succeed in relaxing many student, but was also a great chance for the business majors to put

their thinking caps on and investigate the Aqua Massage as a possible investment opportunity for the future.

This revolutionary design and business is on the rise. It started in 1988 when AMI was incorporated and the initial patent registered. Two years later they shipped their first system. Soon after, the FDA accepted the Aqua PT as a class two medical device.

They have been building upon and improving their design since. Their dedication has paid off and they are now shipping to over 61 countries. Still a young business considering the field they are in, they are literally on the move. You can count on seeing the Aqua Massage name again in the future.

JosephLalli

MASSAGE MASTERPIECE

Be a Leader and a Follower

BrookeMcNalley

Environmental consciousness has become an extremely hot topic over the last five years. And for good reason – as the earth's population grows, there are more and more people using up natural resources, creating waste, and contributing to harmful pollutants in our atmosphere. We've all heard the catch phrase, "one person can make a difference" and probably thought it was nothing more than a saying. But if many people are doing something on their own at the same time, it adds up to a bigger result.

Over the last two years, Avila University has quietly made many environmentally friendly changes on campus, including:

- Light bulbs and lighting fixtures in many classrooms, offices, parking lots and residence hall rooms have been converted to energy-efficient fixtures and bulbs, including compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).
- New printers in the Hooley-Bundschu Library are more energy efficient and automatically print all documents double-sided.
- New boilers (heating and cooling unit) in Marian Centre.
- Half a dozen campus buildings have been installed, and the newly renovated area in O'Rielly Hall (117), are now on an automated system that controls HVAC (heating, ventilation, A/C, and humidity) by remote computer access. The O'Rielly area also has a motion sensor that automatically turns lights off a certain number of minutes after people leave.
- The new Thompson Hall has individual HVAC controls, so residents can turn off unused areas (other residence halls have to heat/cool the whole thing). Thompson Hall rooms have programmable thermostats.
- Landscaping around Thompson Hall and the new courtyard includes many native and xeriscaping (water-conservation) plantings.

In addition to successes already recognized, this year Avila University is taking a formal position on environmental responsibility, and trying to put processes in place to have a big result. The first step was in forming the Environmental Action Committee (EAC). New in 2007, this is a recognized committee by the President and University and a description of

their function will be included in the University handbook.

The EAC Steering Committee consists of nine people (two faculty, two staff, two students, one open position and two Ex Officio members). The Steering



Committee is led by Regina (Gina) Staves, Assistant Professor and Director of Graduate Psychology. Additional Steering Committee members include: Sr. Marie Harris, Provost & Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Farrukh Hasan, Public Services Librarian, Susan Lawlor, Associate Professor Graphic Design and Chair of Arts & Design Department, Jeremy Lillig, Media Specialist/Marketing Coordinator, Darby Peoples, Dean of Students, and Lacey Smith, Assistant Dean of School of Professional Studies. Student representative are: Bailey Umstattd, President of the Residence Hall Association (RHA), and Jennifer Lee.

The steering committee has been meeting regularly since June to determine the group's mission statement, University handbook description, subcommittees and owners, and brainstorm long-term ideas. The mission of the Environmental Action Committee is to assist the Avila community in demonstrating environmental responsibility, and establishing and maintaining right relationships with the earth. The EAC has four subcommittees: Recycling, Landscaping, Efficiency, and Communication. A different faculty member of the steering committee heads each of the subcommittees and is responsible for recruiting members and organizing subcommittee meetings.

GET INVOLVED

Already, approximately 50 faculty members have indicated their interest in serving on an EAC subcommittee.

But the biggest support will need to be from the student body. Any interested student should email Darby Peoples at: darby.peoples@avila.edu, indicating which subcommittee they are interested in. One student can get involved by making and hanging posters, helping plant a rain garden, or carrying out a recycling box. And hopefully, they will tell their friends and classmates, who will also take action and then tell their friends, and so on.

The subcommittees are in the beginning stages of ideas and action and open to suggestions:

- **Communication:** working with the webmaster to include information in AYOU and on a new EAC webpage. Creating and working with art & design classes to design awareness posters to hang around campus.
- **Efficiency:** discussing how to publicize the need to print less, or print 2-sided. Developing a "Turn out the lights" campaign.
- **Landscaping:** working with the maintenance staff to determine earth-friendly improvements, such as: planting rain gardens and native grasses, or

planting to attract more birds and butterflies and to conserve water.

- **Recycling:** working with Bailey Umstattd, President of the Residence Hall Association (RHA), and Jennifer Lee to determine the feasibility of having at least two recycling bins on every floor of all three residence halls this year. The steering committee is also discussing a large campus recycling bin.

The EAC has a lot of ideas and a lot of work ahead of them. Not just the committee, but each member of the Avila University community has a

***"Global warming.
Climate crisis.
Save our planet."***

responsibility to contribute however possible. There is something everyone can do:

- When asked at the grocery store if you'd like paper or plastic, pull out your reusable canvas bag.
- Change any lamp light bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs, and then turn out all the lights when you leave a room.
- Unplug any used electronics, including cell phone chargers that pull electricity constantly - whether a phone is plugged into the end or not.
- Go digital! Print less paper, carry a jump drive with you and save things you may need to refer to later, use Google Maps to email directions to your cell phone.
- Don't leave your car idling.

In reality, change CAN happen with one person – let that person be you and see how many people will follow. 🙌

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Displacement Night

JosephLalli

For the past few years Avila Campus Ministry has hosted an event designed to elevate ones understanding of homelessness by connecting it on a personal level. The condition nicely referred to as “being displaced from home” affects every major city in the United States. There are many remedies for this but only one cure. A homeless man or women must do what it takes to get back on their feet. The real key to eliminating homelessness is to prevent further growth of the homeless population. Many displaced individuals can pinpoint choices in their past which put them on a direct path towards life on the street. In passing you will hear a variety of stories from these people

which sometimes give you insight into the choices and circumstances that lead them to the life they now live. Some are outlandish and quite funny, and others have real heartbreaking stories to tell. Whatever the case may be, many of



Photo Caption: Newspaper, a typical blanket for a chilly night. ▲

these people spend month after month on the streets and never successfully make it through a rehabilitation program. If you spend any time in Kansas City you will quickly see the impact homelessness has on the community and the severe

brokenness it brings to the lives of many who are either displaced themselves, or have a friend or family member displaced. It is easy to say that you yourself will never be in a position of displacement. In reality we really don't know what the future may hold. Nobody plans to be homeless. The fact is, every one of us could find ourselves there at one point or another. The fall of Enron or Hurricane Katrina are perfect examples of how you can be living in comfort one day and the next be living on the streets. In order for us to avoid displacement in our future, we must take necessary steps in preventing it as a possibility. ‘Homeless Night’ plays as an opportunity to bring the reality of homelessness to the forefront of our minds and inspire us to not only prevent it in our future but also to help relieve it in others’.

Bernadette Weeks has been in charge of Homeless Night for the past two years. When asked to sum up the event she said, “Homeless Night is to raise awareness and get us out of our comfort zone and away from the comforts of our beds, pillows, and central heat. We sleep outside under the stars in the comfort of cardboard boxes. This year we did not have cardboard boxes, so we slept atop a tarp on the ground. People that attend Homeless Night are only allowed to bring one blanket, no pillows, and no food is allowed. This year we watched “Invisible Children,” which is a documentary on the kids in Uganda and about the war over there. Homeless Night this year was also to raise awareness about the kids in Uganda. After viewing “Invisible Children” we went out to the Peace Pole in front of Foyle Hall to say a prayer and what we were grateful for. We also had a moment of silence for the homeless and the kids in Uganda. After that we slept outside all night in the cold.” 🙏

Out of the Mac Lab, into the Garden of Eden

TobyCashell



◀ Garden of Eden Vynes

“It was a riveting experiance!”



Toby Cashell throws a film reel down a hill for the film ▲
“Death of Reel” by Guy Maddin and Ben Meade

The first Friday of October, the students of Marci's 3-D class did something a little different. They got out of the deep depths of the Mac lab and took a road trip to a place you might be familiar with: the Garden of Eden, Actually not the one you're thinking of, in Lucas, Kansas. The class headed out around 7:30 AM, running a little late on account of a few stragglers. If their group went on this field trip then class would be cancelled the following Tuesday, making the fall break just that much longer. Marci told the students from 3-D that it could be a great learning experience, which intrigued the class, but what really sold them was the fact that there was a dead guy in a tomb and you could see his decaying body! Might be a little weird, but it caught the class' attention very quickly. So on the road at 7:30 AM, it was a quiet start, but a little stop at McDonald's brought those slacker students right back up to speed. Then they stopped at a roadside park a few hours later and had some lunch. Out of nowhere more of the Avila crew showed up. This time it was a few people from the film department, and Marci's class helped them role a barrel down a hill and into the lake for a more meaningful, deep-thought kind of film.

A guy had built an entire house and had running water two years before the rest of the town had those kinds of amenities. He built his sculptures out of concrete, and they mostly had some sort of political meaning. He built amazing woodwork in the house and was in a tomb in his backyard, which was pretty strange to witness according to the class. Adam, a member of the class, says the trip to the Garden of Eden was “a journey of self discovery.” Jon Dunn said it was a “riveting experience.” However, when asked about the trip Bryn Chaney said “let me get back to you after I see the dead guy,” and some people just thought it was time they could have spent doing homework back in the lab. Overall, the students collaboratively decided it was a positive experience a, but it was a long van ride. Perhaps the work of the students will now become a bit more meaningful. 🙏



AVILA + SOCIAL WORK = BSW WHAT DO SOCIAL WORKERS DO?

KarenMathis

The Avila BSW is a professional degree for anyone interested in helping people. As a BSW our duties are counseling, resource management, and education. A lot of times when people hear “social worker” they think of those people who swoop down and take children from their parents. Indeed for a child’s safety a social worker will do just that, but we do so much more. We adhere to a strict set of values and professional ethics. One being the professional value, Dignity and Worth of the Person, and the Ethical Principle that requires social workers to treat each person in a caring and respectful manner.

A social worker with a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree can get a job in hospitals, health clinics and schools. This also includes elderly care facilities, family court services, and group homes for people living with disabilities, other types of group homes and facilities for kids, childcare centers and child and family counseling. We work in legislators’ offices, city planners’ offices and prisons. We work in immigrant services, veteran services and with the United Way, MOCSA, or other social service agencies. When people are in

need of help navigating the red tape of any size system we are qualified to assist them so that they can learn the skills



needed to regain their power.

In my field practicum, I have worked with the National MS Society as well as Operation Breakthrough with children and families. These were amazing opportunities where I received invaluable

on-the-job training. Before returning to school I volunteered at MOCSA (Metropolitan Organization to Counter

Sexual Assault) for six years; experience that I bring with me as a professional.

The SSWA has several events planned for this semester. We are sponsoring a movie night each month followed by a brief discussion. Our first movie was ‘Crash,’ an amazing movie that brings to the screen several of the social issues confronting us daily: racism, classism, stereotypes, violence, and cultural ignorance and bias. October is Domestic Violence (DV) Awareness month. The movie for this month is a screening of the V-day documentary, “Until Violence Stops.” The film follows the grassroots impact of V-day in five international communities while exposing the pervasive and cultural forms of violence that women experience all over the world, and will be followed by a facilitated discussion. So please join us

on October 24 at 6 p.m. in the Eagle’s Nest. Our activities are sponsored by the Student Social Work Association and the Social Work Department of Avila University. Do not miss our information table in Marian Center with information about domestic violence this month. The last week of October we will be sponsoring a donation drive for a local domestic violence shelter so look for the donation boxes in O’Reilly Hall, Marian Center, Blasco, and the Library.

I am the current president of the Student Social Work Association (SSWA) at Avila. Please look for our fliers on campus and emails regarding future events, activities and volunteer opportunities.

For me, social work is not just a profession, it is a ministry. I did not choose it. It chose me, and I could not be more excited about this new chapter of my life. I am a mother of three and a grandmother of five and I am moving into a new field that will allow me to bring all of those experiences to the profession.

So please join us in our efforts to serve our community. You do not have to be a social work major to be a member of SSWA and if you would like to volunteer or join SSWA, please contact the Social Work Department in O’Reilly Hall. Please do not forget our annual “Angel Tree” for Christmas where we adopt a family in need and collect donations to give a family in our community a Christmas to remember. Feel free to stop by, take an angel from the tree and donate that gift. I will see you on campus. 🙌



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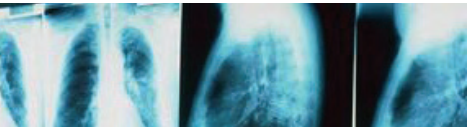
Every year three fourth year students from the Radiological Science department are selected to represent Avila University in a quiz bowl at the Missouri Society of Radiologic Technologists' Conference. These students along with one alternate are chosen, by having the highest GPA in the Avila Radiology program to compete against representatives from other colleges all over the state of Missouri.

Help Send Fellow Students to Competition

The rest of the fourth year students from the department not selected to compete make the trip down to the Resort at Port Arrowhead, Lake of the Ozarks to cheer on their classmates and attend the MSRT Conference. "It gives us a chance to meet other students in the field as well as prospective employers. And I've heard it's always a good time," explained Audrey Kohls, president of the Radiological Science Club. There are twenty-five fourth year students in the Radiology department

this year and to attend this conference they will need to raise money. That's where the Radiologic Science Club comes in. They meet a couple of times throughout the semester to find ways to come up with enough money to send these students to the conference. They need to raise \$3,500-\$4,500 to provide the students with conference fees, room and board, and gas money. This money needs to be accumulated by the time the conference rolls around in mid April.

After the conference is over, the money that is left is put back into the club fund for next year's students. This group has a good start of \$800 left over from last year, but still has a long way to go. To raise money, the members of the Radiological Science Club will be selling candles from Home Interiors, and they will also come up with a T-shirt to sell. So if you know a Rad Tech major and you see them selling something, why not help out your fellow student and get a new t-shirt or candle while you're at it. 🐾



BenKopp STUDENT PERSPECTIVE



A Recap of Last Quarter Value Vent

Students are provided with a list of seven values that are to be upheld in the Avila Community, but what do these values really mean on the campus of Avila University? This column will address the answers to this question and the many others surrounding it. In this semester, however, the focus—or lack thereof—seems to have been on three values in particular: commitment to the continual growth of the whole person, interaction with and service to others and the worth, dignity, and potential of each human being. There is no doubt that these values are upheld to an extent, but concern lies with the question of how great that extent may be.

In the last two-and-a-half months, Avila students have witnessed isolation as each dorm became locked to the residents of the other two dorms, as well as various frustrations in the cafeteria. Despite efforts to fix these situations, each dorm is still locked away from the other two and the alleviation of cafeteria troubles are moving at a snail's pace. A minority of students would be willing to forget all of campus troubles by engrossing themselves in 21 hours of classes, but additional fees prevent this group from going over 18 credit hours. A larger majority of students, on the other hand, seem to have exchanged frustrations over these issues for the greater possibilities of alcohol usage on campus—an issue so large it has become the feature story of this Talon issue.

Concluding this segment of the column, I ask you to look for the inconsistent trust given to students and decide if any of

this should be shifted back to the way it was last year, allowing residents into all halls, providing a relaxing cafeteria where students can spend time with their friends while they eat, enforcing drinking policies, and letting students have a real voice in what happens on campus. 🐾



Eagle Madness

CharlotteBishop

The jugglers were juggling, the ring toss was tossing, and everyone was having a good time during Avila’s annual Eagle Madness.

The jugglers, Team Rootberry, were tossing knives around a student, who later confessed to being “very scared.” The jugglers laughed and joked throughout their whole act, hitting each other with a whip and performing cool balancing acts to a rather unenthusiastic audience. The team has three world

records, all in sword swallowing. You would think that would be enough to impress Avila students, but poor Team Rootberry had to actually work to make us cheer.

The event also featured free air brush tattoos and a talented caricature artist. Across the fieldhouse were games like ring toss, sumo wrestling, and bobbing for apples. It seemed the prizes consisted mostly of candy, and a lot of it. Cups of large lollipops, full-size candy

bars, and handfuls of little ones were awarded to the winners of each game.

Maggie Moo’s gave us a cooler of ice cream, and the cafeteria staff served hot dogs to the crowd of students. If you

left Eagle Madness hungry, it was your own fault.

After the food and fun, the pep rally began. All the athletic coaches spoke about each of their teams and the football seniors were introduced. Both the dancers and the cheerleaders had many performances

and even the men’s basketball team helped the dancers in a comical dance.

To wrap up the night, Athletic director, Mike Sharpe announced the winners of the 2006-2007 Dr. Fred Geer Academic Cup. The cup is given to the athletic team with the highest cumulative GPA. Congratulations goes out the Women’s Basketball team and the Men’s Soccer team. Winning the Dr. Fred Geer individual academic award were Baseball’s Shawn Wadsworth and Volleyball’s Lauren Miller. These students had the highest GPA with the most hours completed.

It was an all-around good time for everybody and a great way to start the year. 🍌



Homecoming King & Queen

BillyFirn & AmandaCampos

Congratulations to our Homecoming King and Queen, Billy Firn and Amanda Campos!

CharlotteBishop

“In high school I always wanted to be nominated for Homecoming Queen, so you can imagine my amazement when I found out last Tuesday (October 9) that I had been nominated,” says Campos, “But to be quite honest, I did not think I stood a chance because there were four other extremely qualified young ladies. Just being nominated was enough for me, but when they said my name over

the speaker at the game I was in shock. I could not believe I had actually won.”

Through the Talon in your hands, your Queen has something to say to you.

When asked about her future plans, Campos said, “For the remainder of

the school year I will continue to work for the football department and be a positive role model for the school and the community. I will also be preparing for graduation and entering the real world. I am hoping to get a job with the FBI working in their counter-terrorism department or any other local government agency. “Being nominated and crowned Queen was an honor that I

will never forget.” Homecoming King Billy Firn is a forth year student from Ypsilanti, Michigan. He is a transfer student who came to Avila on a football scholarship. Firn will graduate in 2008 with a business degree.

Productions Start with Comedy and Drama

BenKopp

During the first weekend of October, four showings of Black Comedy with two nights of dinner theatre marked the kickoff for the 2007-2008 Season. The laughter spoke for itself. The various comic bits were executed in ways that flowed wonderfully with the dialogue and movements. From Brindsley's first collision with his sculpture to Bamberger's fall through the trap door, the actors conveyed a natural blindness to the audience. In some instances, gasps could be heard as members of the audience seemed to believe that a piece of furniture might hit someone or that Bamberger would fall into the trap door on his first passing. In many other instances, roars of laughter could be heard as hidden passions and desires were revealed.

"It was hilarious and very well done!" exclaimed Bernadette Weeks, third year student. Similar sentiments and congratulations were

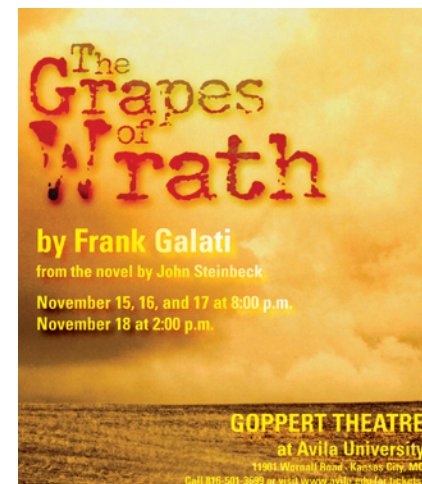
given by other members of the Avila community, who wished to know about the next show.

Switching from comedy to drama, the next production in Goppert Theatre will be Frank Galati's *The Grapes of Wrath*, which is based on John Steinbeck's

novel of the same name. The production is directed by Robert Foulk. As a

participant in the American College Theatre Festival, an adjudicator will be sent to give feedback and recommend students for competition and exhibition in the Festival. Following the Joad family through their experiences during the Dust Bowl, *The Grapes of Wrath* will help the audience better understand what happened to many families in the United States during the 1930's. The show will run November 15-17 at

8:00PM and November 18 at 2:00PM. Students, faculty, and staff of Avila University will receive two free tickets, but everyone planning to attend is asked to reserve their seats ahead of time.



Experience the City We Live in

BrianBerger

We live in the booming metropolis of Kansas City, and there are endless opportunities to go out and experience the city. I am from a rather small town that didn't offer much excitement, and when I moved up here two and half years ago, I was amazed at what Kansas City had to offer. There is always live music, art shows, festivals, and numerous other activities going on. However, my question to you is, how often do you take advantage of the opportunities provided?

Kansas City's Crossroads District provides you with one of these opportunities on the first Friday of every month. All of the art galleries, studios, and restaurants located on the stretch between 20th and Baltimore open their doors, giving people a chance to roam from gallery to gallery to take a look at some of Kansas City's best artists' work while enjoying accommodations

provided by each art gallery. Galleries open their doors from 7-9pm and have free admission for the public.

To start the night there are numerous restaurants including The City Tavern, located at 101 W 22nd and Lidia's, which offers specials on appetizers and drinks. From there, galleries such as The Blue Gallery, Cube at Beco and Lightworks are a short walk away. Some of them provide the flow of people with finger foods

and a glass of wine while they enjoy the art. These galleries are a good place to see local and national established artists, as well as new artists. As people travel from gallery to gallery, live bands fill the streets with music. During the winter, an ice sculptor can even be found carving a block of ice on the sidewalk.

One of the attractions is Tom Bloyd's glassblowing studio, located at 20th and Washington Street. The front part

of his building is used as a show room where he displays both his work and his assistant, Janine's work. The artwork displayed ranges from an assortment of colorful paperweights and vases to intricate birds and fountains. Then if you stray back to the next room there are live glassblowing demonstrations going on all night. You can feel the heat from the 2200 degree furnace as a professional glassblower creates a piece of artwork out of molten glass. As you watch you are free to talk to the artist, and cool yourself off with a cold beverage. Bloyd committed, "I really like First Fridays, because it gives my customers a chance to see how a piece of blown glass is made, and gives me a chance to get some feedback from them. Plus it's just a good atmosphere to be in."

After the galleries start to close, there are plenty of late night restaurants available to hit up. Whether it be a burger from Town Topic, a pizza from Grinder's, or a big burrito from Pancho's, they are all satisfying after a full night of walking around. "My favorite part of First Fridays is the glassblowing and the pollo burrito from the twenty four hour Mexican joint (Pancho's)," said Nick Nava, an Avila senior.

Kansas City's Crossroads District's First

Fridays go year round, with one every month, and no two months are the same. Some of the galleries are main stays and others change from month to month, featuring new artists each time. There are hundreds of people, as well as enough music, art, food and drink to go around. It is an event that has become part of the Kansas City culture.

So, what are you doing the first Friday of next month? How about instead of doing what you do week in and week out, go get yourself a date or a couple of friends and drive downtown to experience the city you live in. Kansas City has a lot to offer and it's about time you start taking advantage of it.



The Guy Named Guy

BuddyBlackman

Many of you may or may not know that Guy Maddin, the Canadian filmmaker with a style than can be spotted from a mile away, was in town briefly, rummaging through the halls of the Dallavis center. The first stop on Maddin's agenda was an impromptu interview session around the Talon roundtable (we'll never wash that table again). Soon after, Maddin left for the Toronto film festival, having won a top honor. The tact of a high profile director was put to the test, and Guy Maddin passed with flying colors. After receiving his awards, Maddin still flew back for the final day at Avila to complete a super eight film that he and our very own Ben Meade had been working on. As if it weren't clear already, Guy Maddin makes it very easy to see why he has been successful. He's smart, nice, almost too responsible, and to top it off, he has a very good sense of humor. As Guy sat across the Talon room with only a couple

of journalists, he fielded all the questions the reporters threw at him, never being short and always having something interesting to say. When asked if there was still a film burning inside him that he feels he's yet to make, he responded admirably. He spoke of subjects and themes which had already been incorporated into some of his works, yet he still wishes to expand upon some of those ideas. It's very



comforting to know that although Guy Maddin has left the Avila halls, we haven't seen the last of him.

Last on the agenda, after flying back and forth across North America, Maddin landed in the boiler room at Avila for a film shoot that would be inaccurately characterized as mildly strange. With men in wheelchairs holding a jockey whip, students "zombied out" with digital cameras strapped to their heads, and my camera getting smashed on the floor, Maddin had met his bizarre match. The film piece sought to show the death of the analog days. With the death of actually cutting film and splicing it together, a

new dawn has arrived; the dawn of the digital age. Nowadays we sit at computers and use videotape rather than the hair-pulling madness of film. But even in our digital age, Maddin and Meade (the double M's) are out to prove it can still be done effectively. A lot was learned from Maddin's short but sweet stay.

Maddin is a man that can go shoot a film with Isabella Rosellini, win the best Canadian feature film at Toronto, and still end up shooting a movie at Avila, while enjoying the experience as it were any other. Maddin proved a lot during his stay. Someone can be successful with what they do and still be humbled enough to spread the wealth. Guy Maddin had already been proven a great director, but now Guy Maddin has proven he's a great guy too. 🐒

Some rock-band reunions are rockier than others

JonBream & ChrisRiemenschneider

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)
(MCT)

"We're getting along better than we have before." So said Eddie Van Halen at a news conference in August, when his namesake band announced its reunion tour with original singer David Lee Roth. If only the guitar god's statement really said all that much.

The Roth-fueled outing puts a postscript on a legendary lineup that was contentious throughout most of its original 12-year run. Many fans flocked to the tour's Sept. 27 opening date in Charlotte, N.C., because they didn't expect it to last much past that.

Fans lining up for the tour will no doubt be watching for signs of turmoil and/or hints of what's to come. We take a look back at some of rock's most famous tension-filled, acrimonious reunion tours, and how they fared in the end.

The Police

Backstory: Singer/bassist Sting and drummer Stewart Copeland fought like bull-headed brothers before disbanding in 1986. The chief of the Police put down his lute and unexpectedly extended an olive branch for the trio's eight-month (and counting) tour that started in May. Postscript: A few shows in, Copeland ripped the band's lack of synchronicity on his blog, and many fans and critics continue to complain. But the \$91 million paycheck for North America alone has ap-

parently arrested Copeland's concerns.

The Pixies

Backstory: In 1993, Frank Black broke up his influential Boston alt-rock band by fax (ouch!), largely due to his rift



with bassist/singer Kim Deal, who had spawned her own group, the Breeders, and a bad drug habit. After years of downplaying the Pixies, Black opened the door for 2004's reunion by playing the quartet's songs on a 2003 solo tour. Postscript: As seen in the fascinating documentary "loudQuietloud," the band never really gelled personally on the tour, and drummer Dave Lovering (not Deal) needed rehab. But the concerts were a surprise hit musically and financially, leaving open the possibility for more.

Motley Crue

Backstory: Where to begin? The defining "Behind the Music" tale of sex, drugs, a little rock 'n roll and way too much greed, the Crue came to a halt in 1999 after drummer Tommy Lee got out of jail for spousal abuse and stepped back into the tabloids full-time.

Postscript: After forgettable outings with replacement members, the original quartet hit the road again in 2005 with varying success. Now comes word that Tommy _ back in the tabloids thanks to a motley scrum with Kid Rock _ has reportedly quit the band once again.

Van Halen 2 (with Sammy Hagar)

Backstory: The band split with its second singer (Hagar) and hired a third guy (Gary Cherone) in 1996, a move that bombed worse than David Lee Roth's solo career. But Hagar was back on board for a 2004 tour.

Postscript: In concert, they overacted their chumminess, and Eddie Van Halen under-performed following chemo and preceding rehab. There was no downplaying the acrimony after the tour, bad enough to finally send Eddie and Alex Van Halen back into Diamond Dave's arms.

Fleetwood Mac

Backstory: All the "Rumours" over the band's heyday-era trysts and drug use eroded their harmonies. In 1987 Lindsey Buckingham opted to go his own way, and Stevie Nicks exited one album later.

It took a presidential pardon to get them back together in 1993 (for Bill Clinton's inauguration).

Postscript: The chain was fully reconnected for a well-received 1997 tour, after which Christine McVie retired. A dud album but another popular tour followed in 2003, but it's unclear if the Mac is still intact.

Eagles

Backstory: "When hell freezes over," is what Don Henley said throughout the '80s about America's all-time best-selling band getting back together. Hell is exactly what the band caught for being the first to break the \$100-ticket mark in 1994 (now ancient history), when Henley and co-frontman Glenn Frey reached a detente.

Postscript: They've been selling out _ literally and figuratively _ for a decade and will finally release their overdue reunion album on Oct. 30 as a Wal-Mart exclusive.

Simon & Garfunkel

Backstory: Paul wrote the songs and got more of the acclaim (and royalties), which frustrated Art, who had the prettier voice. After their 1970 split, the childhood friends couldn't bridge their troubled waters until their mammoth 1981 free concert in New York's Central Park, which led to a 1982-83 tour.

Postscript: Their first reunion trek survived with separate limos and dressing rooms. By their 2003 tour, they showed more onstage communication, but who knows what happened off stage? 🐒

KayleWalker

Wet Campus Policy

“Every Room is monitored” ▶

Avila has gone through many changes in the past two years and with the addition of Thompson Hall, that also means new policies. The new resident's hall was built to keep upperclassmen on campus. The style living is designed like an apartment and also has a few extra perks that the underclassmen dorms don't have.

One of those perks is that Thompson Hall is a wet dorm. Before you think Animal House, crazy party, let me define the rules for you. The drinking policy is different from suite to suite. To be eligible to drink in your suite there are three things that must be done. One, everyone living in the suite must be twenty-one years old by the first day of class. Two, everyone must complete Alcohol 101 class, which is an instructional CD about responsible drinking. And finally, the students must write a paper in response to what they've learned in Alcohol 101.

At the start of fall semester there were only three suites that were eligible for being a wet suite, and of those three, only one has completed the suite agreement.

Although the residents of this suite are allowed to consume alcohol in their suite, they are not allowed to have any guests under the age of

twenty-one in their room while they are drinking. They can also only drink in their suite, which means they are not allowed to drink in anyone else's suite, the halls, parking lot, etc.

The RAs and the RHDs are responsible for regulating the

and RHDs are required to investigate. No matter what policy is being broken, there are consequences to be suffered.

If a student does receive a violation from a RA, it is then passed to the RHD of the building in which it happened. If the student happens to live off campus, Jason Baldwin deals with the matter.

If the student is also an athlete, a letter is sent to athletic director, Mike Sharpe, and the coach is informed. It is then upon the coach to deliver additional punishment, if any.

For the first offense, students will face a Level Two sanction. This sanction means the violator will be required to complete the Alcohol 101 CD and write a paper. A student may also be given community service. After the first offense, the policy is somewhat muddy. The second offense depends on how much time has passed since the first violation and the involvement of the resident. Failure to comply with these sanctions will result in a fine for the resident.

Since the policy is new, there will most definitely be some changes in the next few years. Peoples hopes to have the policy laid out in the handbook next year. For more on the alcohol and drug policy, see the Student Handbook pages 18-20.



appropriate and inappropriate drinking in the residence halls.

“They are not necessarily looking to bust students for drinking, but they are required to follow policy,” said Darby Peoples, Dean of Students. There are also regular room and safety checks at breaks, where every room is checked to see if a resident is breaking the rules. If so, they are written up. If a resident violates another policy, such as noise, the RAs

With the exception of Thompson Hall, Avila University is meant to be a dry campus. The policies to prohibit alcohol are definitely in place, but questions arise regarding the level of enforcement. In the first place, students are getting punished for drinking on campus; in some cases, these punishments are even being placed on students who were not drinking at the time and put on record.

One such student provided an anonymous account. This individual went to visit another dorm with a few friends and had no idea the students were drinking in this room. The visitors and occupants were all mi-

nors, and alcohol was not expected. According to the nameless student, only the occupants of the living-space consumed

the alcohol between the time of arrival and being found in the room by a Residence Assistant, less than three minutes later. Despite expectations, the visitors were sentenced to a crash course on alcohol while the occupants received a punishment of equal severity that did not involve the alcohol course. Since the incident, the visitors to the living-space have made an appeal.

The nameless student has reported that the

appeal was rejected on the grounds that the visitors were “guilty by association.”

Of course, this is a single situation. Looking to the other hand of questions, a person may find several reasons to suspect minimal enforcement used for the purpose of sugarcoating the issue at hand. A plethora of alcoholic beverage containers appear in trashcans and parking lots, helpful tips on how to check for alcohol poisoning—and what to do in such a situation—have been posted, and failed attempts to vomit in the proper disposal areas have been found several times. To put it another way, the policies established create a dry blanket into which parents would place their children contently; however, looking in the right places and asking the right questions would reveal that such a blanket is only in place to cover three wet rags.

From a student perspective, the level of enforcement that seems to be applied at this time is somewhat understandable. For instance, the location of Avila University provides the perfect opportunity for students to not only have friends



Dry Yet Wet BenKopp

Student Perspective

live off campus, but to visit several parties in the surrounding neighborhoods where alcohol may or may not be served. As a result, there is a high risk for students driving back to campus while intoxicated and minimal enforcement of current policies lowers this risk, which reduces the number of drunk driving accidents in the community.

While this article does point out a pink elephant on the campus, it is not meant to encourage the consumption of alcohol in any way. Please remember that the policies prohibiting alcohol are in place and may be enforced to greater extents as deemed necessary; especially because consumption of alcohol by anyone under the age of 21 is prohibited by the law of the land.



NOVEMBER
1

Avila University Presents Woman on Wheels featuring
Katie Banister author, activist, and founder of Access-4-All
Personal Perspective from a Woman on Wheels
10:00 a.m. at Whitfield Centre. Also happening at Whitfield
Caregiving Cultivating Healthy Relationships 1:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER
2

Video Broadcast with Janet Attwood
Co-Author of the national best-seller
The Passion Test at O'Reilly, room 102
Friday 2nd@2:00 p.m. & Monday 5th@3:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER
5

Avila University, Flu Shot Clinic
Marian Center Barefoot Room 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (also Wed. 7th) Cost \$25
Questions? Carol Frevert, RN 816-501-3688 carol.frevert@avila.edu
Healthcare Practive Interviews
Career Center 2:00-6:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER
6

Men and Women's basketball first home games
5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER
8

ASNO Healthcare Recruitment Fair
Whitfield Center Conference Room
3:00-5:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER
14

"Students Today Preparing for Tomorrow" Internship panel
Marian Center Alumni Lounge @ 4:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER
16

Spring Registration Day for Classes

NOVEMBER
19

"Keep an Ear to the Street" Discussion Panel
Whitfield Center @ 6:00 p.m.

TALLIN

NEWS MAGAZINE



The History of Halloween

DaniAsher

There are probably as many different versions of the origins of Halloween and our favorite spooky holiday traditions as there are days in October. Here are a couple different spins, as well as where some of our most enjoyable rituals come from. You can decide for yourself what to believe.

Samhain

The ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in) started around 2,000 years ago in the areas of modern Ireland, the United Kingdom, and Northern France. The festival honored the New Year which began on November 1, to celebrate the end of the summer harvest and mark the beginning of the dark and cold winter which was associated with death. The night before the festival of Samhain, it was believed that the boundary between the worlds was blurred and the ghosts of death returned to Earth.

As a part of the festival of Samhain, Druids (Celtic priests) built bonfires and local Celts offered sacrifices to the Celtic deities. It was thought that the otherworld spirits made it easier for the Druids to prophesize the future. During the sacrifices, the Celts wore costumes and attempted to tell each other's fortunes. At the end of the night, the bonfires were re-lit to serve as protection for the rest of the year.

Around A.D. 43, Romans conquered the Celts and two Roman festivals were combined with Samhain. Feralia was a day where the Romans celebrated the passing of the dead. The second day honored Pomona,

the Roman goddess of the fruit and trees. The symbol for Pomona was an apple, and that is how bobbing for apples became a common Halloween tradition.

By the 800s, there was a strong Christian influence among the Romans and Celts and Pope Boniface IV deemed November 1 All Saints Day. The purpose of this day was to honor the saints and martyrs. It was rumored that this was an attempt of Pope Boniface IV to replace the Celtic festival with a similar celebration that was sanctioned by the church.

Around A.D. 1000, November 2 was named All Souls' Day. Thus, there were the three celebrations of the old Celtic festival. All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day were collectively named Hallowmas or All Hallows. These names were later adapted to our familiar term of Halloween.



El Día de los Muertos

The Day of the Dead has Mexican

origins and lasts from midnight on October 31 through November 2. The festivities are rich with death images, although the attitudes toward death are different than that of Halloween (where death is largely feared in our culture). The thinking behind the Day of the Dead is that the memories of loved ones that have died are something to celebrate.

Dating back to the period of the Aztecs, there was a month long summer celebration that was overseen by the goddess Mictecacihuatl, the Lady of the Dead. Spain later conquered the Aztecs and Catholicism became the dominant religious influence. The various customs became connected with All Saints' Day on November 1.

Though there are many different traditions and ways to celebrate El Día de los Muertos, the more common rituals include making elaborate altars to welcome the departed spirits home. Vigils are held and graves are cared for in the cemeteries. Pan de muerto, or bread of the dead, is eaten, which can conceal a miniature skeleton.

Trick or Treating and Jack -O-Lanterns

Trick or treating originated with a Ninth Century European custom called souling, which was incorporated with All Souls' Day. Christians walked around begging for square pieces of bread with currants, called soul cakes. The more cakes these beggars received, the more prayers were promised on behalf of dead loved ones who had given them the cakes. It was believed during this time that the dead remained in limbo until prayers set their souls free on a path to heaven.

The Jack-O-Lantern comes from Irish Folklore. Jack was a prankster and a drunk who tricked Satan into climbing a tree. Jack then carved a cross in the tree trunk, trapping the Devil. In exchange for freedom from the tree, the Devil promised to never tempt Jack again.

Upon his death, Jack was denied access to both heaven and hell. He was rejected from heaven because of his wicked ways and hell because he had tricked the Devil in the past. The Devil did agree to give Jack an ember to guide him through the cold darkness. The ember was placed inside a hollowed out turnip.



The Jack-O-Lantern tradition was adapted from turnips to pumpkins in America because of the abundance of pumpkins. Happy Hallowmas!

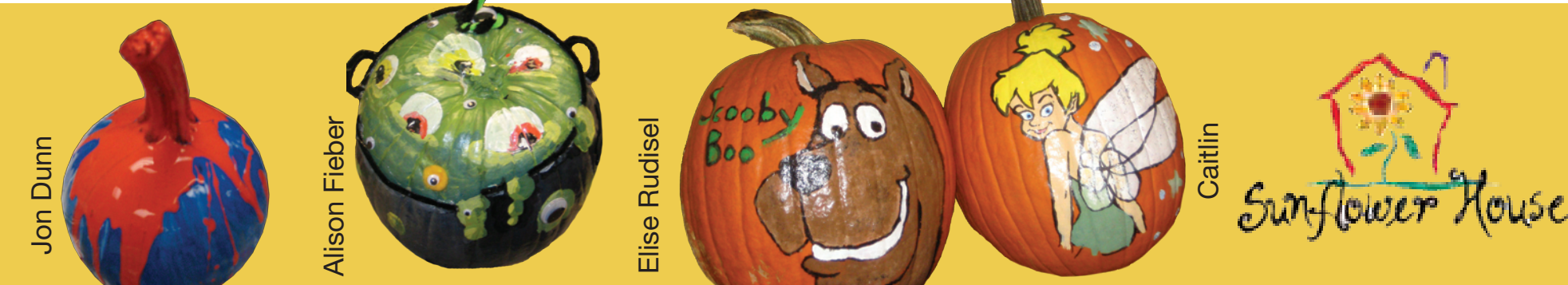
For references or more information visit: history.com, about.com, and wilstar.net/holidays



Graphic by Chadd Rivera

Pumpkin Palooza

EmeleeEveler



This fall, pumpkins mean something much more than decorating. A group of Avila students offered up some of their creative talent and effort to paint pumpkins for a special fundraising event for the Sunflower House, a child abuse prevention center.

The fundraiser is called “Pumpkin Palooza” and is the first of its kind at the Sunflower House located in Shawnee, Kansas. The volunteer organization protects children in and around the community from physical and sexual abuse through education, advocacy, forensic and medical services. The facility itself is state of the art in that it provides a completely child-friendly environment that caters to many individuals working on a child abuse case, as well as being centrally located. The fundraiser is definitely something special for them and is something they hope to continue every year.

Many artists from around the Kansas City area have donated their time and artistic ability to make the event truly remarkable. Students at Avila, from instructor Marci Aylward’s drawing class,

made the trek over to Shawnee in order to help in the cause. A few of the staff members at the Sunflower House were talking about how impressed they were with both the work and professionalism of the students. It was definitely an “Avila Proud” moment.

The painted pumpkins were created in a colorful array of all kinds of themes and inspiring ideas. From wrapped up mummies to an M&M pumpkin and pirate pumpkins to Tinkerbell, the creative energy was definitely felt all around the room. One of the nice things about painting on them instead of carving is that they last much longer and are still really fun to look at.

From 8:00 to 4:00 on Saturday October 20, the parade of painted pumpkins was auctioned off at the Sunflower House and all the proceeds will go to the Sunflower House and to the children that depend on their services. The Avila students are proud to have been a part of something special and to give back to the community as well as showing off a little creative talent.



Chadd Rivera creating his masterpiece



Andy’s “Hangover Pumpkin”



Did You Know?

For those who didn’t know, most McDonalds (including the one on Red Bridge Rd.) give out free premium iced coffees every Monday! I think we can all agree that there isn’t much to look forward to on Monday’s, so this just might help you get through the day!

4 Cheap, Last Minute Costume Ideas

GeorgeThorman



1

Groucho Marx

(Note: This is a unisex costume!)
You will need: one black suit, one black tie, white button-up shirt, black shoe polish, a cigar (smoking it is optional), and a pair of glasses
Instructions: Suit up leaving your tie loose and your shirt rumpled and half tucked. Use the shoe polish to apply a square mustache and square your eyebrows. Top it all off with a pair of reading glasses and a big, fat cigar.

2

Trading Places

You will need: A friend to trade identities with, your friend's trademarks i.e. a necklace or ring he/she always wears, hairstyle, add or remove glasses, etc., and a sense of humor.
Instructions: You will exchange your identity with a friend's for the evening. Get to know his/her mannerisms. Using your friend's catchphrases can be a great way to portray them, especially if they use distinctive words or have an accent. (Author's note: A friend of mine still uses the words "gnarly" and "righteous". He will often start and end the same sentence with "dude". I wouldn't even have to style my hair like his or carry drumsticks for everyone who knows him to get the joke.)

3

Your Celebrity Look-Alike

You will need: to look at least remotely like a celebrity.
Instructions: In case of an actor choose a character that he or she has portrayed and dress accordingly. In case of a sports star find a team jersey and try to find a product he/she promotes to carry around for the night.

4



Blast From the Past

You will need: clothes from the time period (or decade) of your choice and a back-story.
Ex. For Ladies-
A) Get yourself a poodle skirt, a sweater set, and some pom-poms and claim to be a cheerleader from the 50s.
B) Wear a tank top and spandex shorts in two appalling different shades and say that you're a White Snake groupie (or some other 80s metal band).
C) Dress like a flapper girl and tell people that you work in a speakeasy.
Ex. For Gentlemen
A) Grab a backwards hat, some JNCOs, beat up converse sneakers, chain wallet, and a shirt that's a size too big and say "Hey dude!" to the 90s. Tell people you're an extra from the set of "Clueless".
B) (This is not for the faint of heart.) Get yourself some spandex, high top shoes, long hair- perhaps a wig will be needed, and a few ladies so that you can really look like an 80s hair metal star.
C) If all else fails give yourself Disco Fever. Tell everyone you are John Travolta's biggest fan. The platform shoes might be tough to find though.

Shopping for a costume...

Have Guns Will Rent Costume

1313 State Ave
Kansas City, KS
(913) 321-4867

Dottie Mae's Used Mannequins

8308 Wornall Rd
Kansas City, MO
(816) 361-1505

Party America

13647 Washington Street
Kansas City, MO 64145
816-943-8655

Costumes & More

1403 Swift Ave
Kansas City, MO
(816) 221-9295

Welcome to Hell... The Edge of Hell!

KayleWalker

Since I am not a native of Kansas City, visiting its infamous haunted houses is something new to me. Last year I visited my first haunted house and I am not going to lie I ended up surrounded by “things” in a cage crying my eyes out.

So as you can imagine, I wasn’t too thrilled when my friends insisted on checking out the haunted houses this year. The one we chose to visit was The Edge of Hell.

Before we even got to the door that started the haunted house we were already pushing each other and arguing over who had to go first. Unfortunately the fear that we had was short lived. After about five minutes I realized the whole thing was a big joke.

There was so much anticipation of being really afraid, that once I realized we were walking through a pitch-black

maze with random idiots jumping out of spots, I was very disappointed.

I think I scared the creatures more than they scared me. So obviously, I wouldn’t recommend visiting this particular haunted house unless you like to be extremely sweaty in small spaces.

*“I think I scared
the creatures more
than they scared
me.”*

As a poor college student you only get one chance to check out one of the haunted house, so if I could do it all again I’d probably check out one of the new haunted houses, The Chambers of Edgar Allen Poe or the Macabre Cinema.



Full of smiles before entering The Edge of Hell ▲

Kansas City’s Haunted Houses

The Edge of Hell :

The Edge of Hell has been scaring Kansas Citians for decades--and made history by allowing you to go to heaven and plunge into hell on their infamous 5 story slide.



1300 West 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri
64101
816-842-4279

The Beast :

Voted Top 10 of Haunted Houses in the US, the Beast does not disappoint. Make your way through the Werewolf Forest and zip your way out on their 4 story slide.



1401 West 13th Street
Kansas City, Missouri
64102
816-842-4280

Save \$7 with combo admission to the
Edge of Hell & The Beast

The Chambers of Edgar Allan Poe:

Can you face the madness? Witness the dark writings, tales, and poems come to life in the haunted Chambers of Edgar Allan Poe. Be a part of your favorite nightmarish tales like The Raven, The House of Usher, Rue Morgue, The Black Cat, and more! Experience the feelings of being buried alive, suffocating, or claustrophobia to the extreme.



1100 Santa Fe St
Kansas City, MO 64101
Map
(816) 474-3845

Macabre Cinema:

Are you ready to go from the screen to SCREAM? Welcome to the Macabre Cinema. Don’t just watch it, LIVE the action of classic and contemporary horror scenes on your 45 minute – one hour adventure through our haunted 1930’s movie theatre. Macabre Cinema continues the open format of The Beast Haunted House (opened in 1991) through more than 30 dramatic scenes housed throughout the 4 floors and, if you dare, the dungeon.



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64101
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Get a \$3 OFF coupon to MACABRE
CINEMA
or THE CHAMBERS OF POE at any
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Things that Go Bump in the Night

CharlotteBishop

Halloween's coming, and that means creepy creatures are emerging from the shadows. Some of them are just kids in costumes, but what about the ones that are not? Are you prepared to protect yourself during the "most evil night of the year", as Halloween is often called? This guide to monsters will help you.

Vampires- Most people know about your basic, stereotypical vampire: fangs, pale skin, homicidal intent, the usual. According to books and movies, vampires are undead people who feed on human blood, and a stake through the heart will kill them. They also can't stand garlic, crucifixes, or holy water. The sun completely destroys them, and if you decapitate or incinerate one, it's gone forever. Folklore has a slightly different story. In those versions, a vampire is a revenant (ghost or animated corpse) of a witch, suicide victim, or simply an evil person. Another version of a vampire is a spirit that caused death in small villages. If a vampire bites you, you will become one yourself. In Romania, they think that if a vampire stares at a pregnant woman, the baby will be a vampire. In China, they believe that if a corpse is jumped over by

a dog or a cat, the dead person will become a vampire. So watch it, everybody.

Werewolves- Don't listen to Hollywood on this one, folks. The full moon has nothing to do with these frightening creatures. Once you become a werewolf, you will never take human form again. They are vulnerable to silver, however, as well as pentagrams and wolfsbane. Ways to become a werewolf vary. The usual way is for one to bite or scratch you. Another way is to drink water from the footprint of a werewolf (I'm serious.) Yet another way is to make a belt out of wolf skin and wear it. In Russia, it is said that a child born on December 24 will be a werewolf (I knew something

was weird about my friend Laura), and a werewolf child can be spawned from two werewolf parents. And these

are just the basic ways; there are many, many more, so be careful.

Witches- Witches practice witchcraft, obviously. They can be either good or evil, and can both cast spells and resurrect the dead. Sometimes they like to take over a person's mind and make them perform silly or terrible acts (so if you wake up naked on somebody's lawn on November 1, it might not be because you had any alcohol). Witches have been blamed for sickness in

animals, sudden death, and bad luck. Oddly enough, the folk magic used to ward them off is practically the same as the magic they use themselves. It might do you well to learn some.

Zombies- As portrayed in many movies, zombies are reanimated corpses without consciousness. However, their actual origins are a bit different from Hollywood's version. Zombies are brought back in most legends by voodoo and are under the control of the person who conjured them. Like vampires, by some legends zombies are revenants brought back by a thirst for revenge or some other strong emotion. So if you see one, don't worry: it won't eat you. Just stay out of its way.

Boogiemmen- A boogymen (or bogeyman) is a ghostlike creature usually believed in by children. It has no specific form, just a presence that hides under beds and whatnot. They aren't usually dangerous, but they like to cause mischief. In Ireland, a bogeyman was a faerie that kidnapped children to play with them. As fun as that sounds, don't let it happen to you. They keep you for a year and a day, so you'd have to be at Avila an extra year to make up what you missed.

This is only a small taste of what could be lurking in the night, so watch yourself this Halloween.



Scaring Avila Now and Then

Emily Hoskins



Jigsaw

VS.



Hannibal Lector

What scares Avila? Well, nothing of course. But for the sake of this article random students were asked to narrow down exactly what movies freak them out the most. Let it be made clear that they preferred the merely gory or gruesome movies that make one want to turn their head in disgust. But there selections were made do to other factors. Did their heart actually skip a beat? Did they frantically jump into the lap of the person next to them? Nightmares, oh the nightmares. These movies are legitimate ladies and gentlemen.

The most recent horror/scary movies that were mentioned are the following: "The Ring," "Silent Hill," "Saw I," "Texas Chainsaw Massacre," "Halloween," and "Jeepers Creepers". Now it proves that all of these can be classified as great horror movies and some are definitely better than others, but when it comes down to it, sometimes one can never beat a classic.

The following films that Avila students have chosen contain a genius evil stench that creeps all over them. Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds," Thomas Harris's "Silence of The Lambs," Steven King's "The Shining" and "It," Frank Marshall's "Arachnophobia," and finally Steven

Spielberg's "Poltergeist." So there are psycho evil birds that aim to kill, a clown who roams a small town in hopes of killing innocent children, demons that use the static of the television to kidnap a little girl, a haunted hotel that drives a father and husband to kill his own family, a South American killer spider, and a brilliant forensic psychiatrist turned cannibalistic serial murderer that holds the key to capturing another deadly serial killer on the loose. How each of these horror movies are so very sick and twisted in their own brilliant way. So they might be flirting with a line that shouldn't be crossed, but they wouldn't be great movies if they didn't.

As for right now, there are a couple of movies coming out this October that look pretty freaky as well. "30 Days of Night" is set in a small town in Alaska, that for a full month every winter, the sun never appears and the whole town is covered in darkness. This window of time and darkness makes it all the easier for vampires to emerge and suck dry whomever they please. The town's sheriff, Josh Harnett, is all that stands in the way of the forces of evil before everyone goes from being dinner to dead. This movie of terror opened Friday October 19.



Arachnophobia

Another movie tha was released on October 26 is "Saw IV." The serial torturer Jigsaw is dead and two FBI profilers have come to clean up the mess. Unfortunately, not all of Jigsaw's traps have been sprung and a SWAT commander gets caught up in the oh so familiar deadly game.



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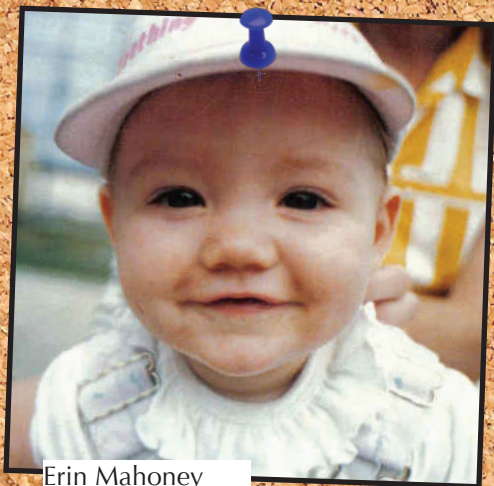
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JohnDe Roo
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE



Baseball
Renovations

\$ A huge \$250 million dollar renovation has started this fall on Kauffman Stadium, the home of the Kansas City Royals. The project is supposed to be complete by the 2009 season and will include adding amenities like wider concourses, more restrooms, a restaurant in right-field, an expanded Royals Hall of Fame in left-field, and much more.

Kauffman Stadium has been a beautiful ballpark since it opened on April 10th, 1973. Some of the projects that will be completed this winter include new bullpens which will now be parallel to the field, more seating in the crown seats and dugout suites, and a brand new high-definition score/video board in center field. It is suppose to be the biggest hi-def board in the world. Construction will continue throughout next season so keep that in mind when you go to a game next year. While the new renovations will help bring Kauffman Stadium up to modern standards modt ballparks are in, it is unfortunate that some of the things fans got so used to seeing over the years will be gone or look very different.

The Sony Jumbotron video board which has sat on the left-field hill-side since 1990 will be removed and seats will be placed in front of the fountains for the first time ever. The grassy area underneath the score-

board in center field that some teams have even incorporated into their new parks will, it appears, serve as a walk path for fans in the new fountain seats and the new standing room only area in right-field. The original crown scoreboard will be removed to make room for the new hi-def board.

While the new hi-def board will look cool, the original scoreboard has been a trademark in the park since Day 1 and will hopefully be preserved in some fashion. The crown should end up in the Royals Hall of Fame, but who knows about the board itself. The Royals claim these changes will not hurt the charm of the park, but the jury's still out on that. Kauffman Stadium will look different in a couple of

years and that may be a good or bad thing depending on how you look at it. The park has gotten better with age with the grass field replacing the Astroturf in 1995 and the blue seats which were installed in 1999 and 2000. I personally believe the park is fine the way it is without touching one thing, but I understand why they are renovating it. The Royals do need more revenue and the new amenities will help. I will be interested to see if the park lacks any of its charm will the renovations are done. Opening Day 2009 will be an interesting day in Kansas City.



Cheerleading Preview
ChaddRivera

Like all sports, cheerleading is a sport geared towards competition. While every other sport has a long schedule full of multiple games or matches, cheerleading only has two, Conference and Nationals. However, last year the cheerleading team did not compete in Nationals.

"Last year a large group of cheerleaders felt that the team was not ready," said Ashlee Steele, second year student. When asked about Nationals this year she said, "The tickets are already bought."

The cheerleading team has been working hard this year getting ready for competition. Even since the summer, a team made up of half returners and half new incomers, has been practicing hard into the nights with a grueling schedule most sports are lucky not to have. The team practices four nights a week, lifts and runs twice a week and still cheers at games.

"This year's team is more dedicated and really is working hard," said Steele.

The coaching staff also seems to work harder this year. After talking to some

of the cheerleaders, they say that Brittany Stewart, second year head coach, has shown growth in all aspects of her role.

"She's really shown that she cares for

"She's really shown that she cares for us this year"

us this year, with practice and with our grades," said Alex Charron, second year student. Stewart has also surrounded herself with a devoted coaching staff in Anni Drinane and Melissa Shipman.

This cheerleading team may have had a setback last year, but that's not stopping them this year. Because of the work already done and the hard work still to come, this year's team looks ready to bring home another banner from Orlando this January.



JohnDe Roo

FootBall Update

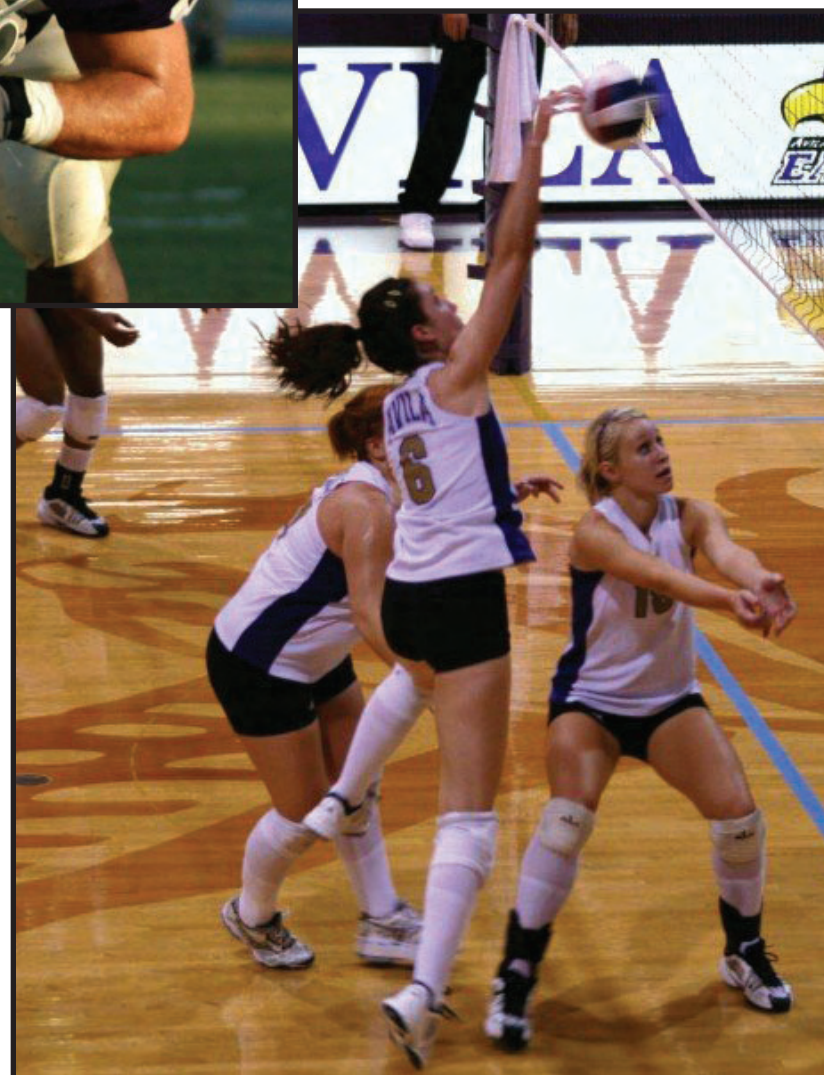
The Avila University football team entered play on October 13th against Central Methodist with a record of 1-5 overall and in conference play. Eagles quarterback Billy Firn has had a nice year so far throwing the football. Entering play against CMU, Firn had thrown for 1,341 yards with 14 touchdowns. Firn has been averaging 223.5 yards per game throwing the ball. Avila receivers Doug Wendel and Anthony Kelly are tied for 4th in Division I national rankings in receptions per game at 7.5. Wendel and Kelly both have caught 5 TD passes so far this season. They have five games remaining and look to finish out the season strong. Good Luck to head coach Bruce Young and the football team the rest of the way.



VolleyBall Update

JohnDe Roo

The Avila University volleyball team is nearing the end of their regular season. The Eagles entered play on October 12th with an overall record of 13-12 and a 3-4 mark in HAAC play. The Eagles only remaining home game was on October 25th when they played host to Haskell Indian Nations University. The Eagles will conclude the regular season on October 30th at Graceland University. Congratulations to head coach Jan Madlock and the volleyball team for a successful season so far. Good Luck in the HAAC conference tournament. 🐉



Dance Preview

CharlotteBishop



The dance team is certainly busy this year. Every year the NFL chooses a charity to help out, and this year their choice was the Dream Factory, which raises money for sick children. Normally, the Kansas City Chiefs' cheerleaders would help out, but this year our dance girls took on the job. They also helped with a fundraising golf game.

The week before pre-season, the dance team went to an elite dance camp that caters to colleges all over the country. It was a great experience according to Coach Cindy Freeman, who says that the girls learned lots of new routines, one of which was shown

at Homecoming.

"They are a very talented and committed team," she says.

The team dances at all football and double-header basketball games, as well as helps with community service and makes special appearances. They do fundraisers all year long, from car washes to dance camps. They will host a high school dance camp on December 1 in the afternoon from 1 PM to 5 PM. Any kids on campus taking dance classes are also welcome to attend.

The dance team regularly practices three days a week, have strength and conditioning two days a week, and then some additional practices. At Christmas Break, they'll come back right after the holiday itself and practice every day, preparing for Nationals.

Currently, the dance team is working on the routine for Nationals, which will be held at the Magical Kingdom in Disneyland, Orlando, Florida. The dance team is working on the tape to send in for qualification. Their choreographer, Aimee Martinez, is on her fourth year working with them. She was a Laker girl for three years. The team has already learned their jazz routine for

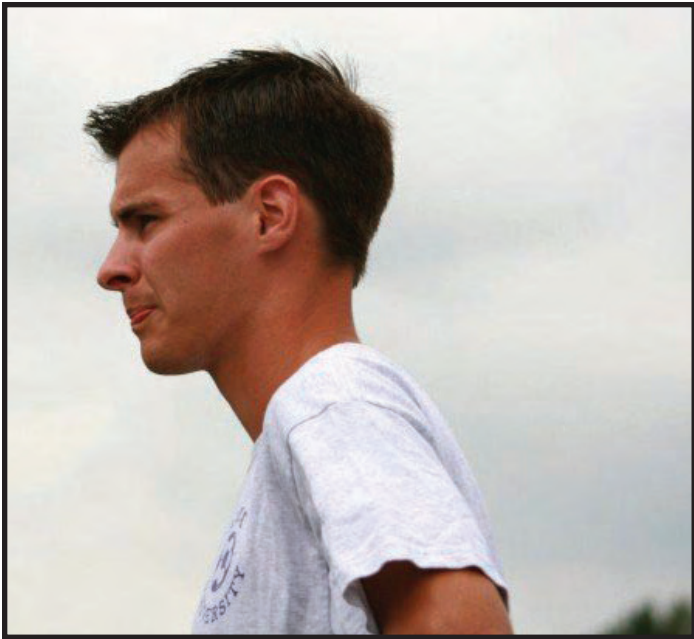
Nationals and is working on their hip-hop.

In 2005, Avila's dance team won the hip-hop category and has been in the top 10 every year. Freeman has high hopes for the team.

"My assistant coach, Roquel Thomas, has been with us since we started. My daughter, Mandy Honeycutt, has been a member of the team for that long. I'm really excited about having them this year. Having this much continuity in coaches helps with the chemistry of the team," Freeman says.

What does the Coach like most about the team?

"It's treated just like all the sports. Supported by the administration and staff, the girls are held to having good grades, which is not required by the NAI. They're considered to be dual-sport athletes, going through two seasons. It requires a lot of determination. The girls take it on themselves to work hard. It's really nice as a coach to have that, for them to motivate themselves."



Joshua Loden

is a senior, political Science major and is original from Joplin, Missouri. He has been playing soccer since he was five years old and has been a part of many teams including, Joplin High School, Firestorm (4th-11th grade), and Avila University.

"I chose to play soccer because it was the only sport I was tall enough to participate in and it allowed people to see results from my individual efforts," said Loden.

Loden has had many memorable moments playing soccer at Avila for the past four years. A few memories he will never forget include the time he scored from twenty yards out off a head ball his junior year and two hat tricks during his senior year.

Loden has learned to balance school and athletics with time management. "I start projects in advance instead of at the last minute," he said.

Soccer is a big part of Loden's life and is the reason he chose Avila. A few final words from Loden,

["Play hard, have fun,
score goals!!!"]

Senior Soccer Profiles

Kayle Walker

Erin Miller

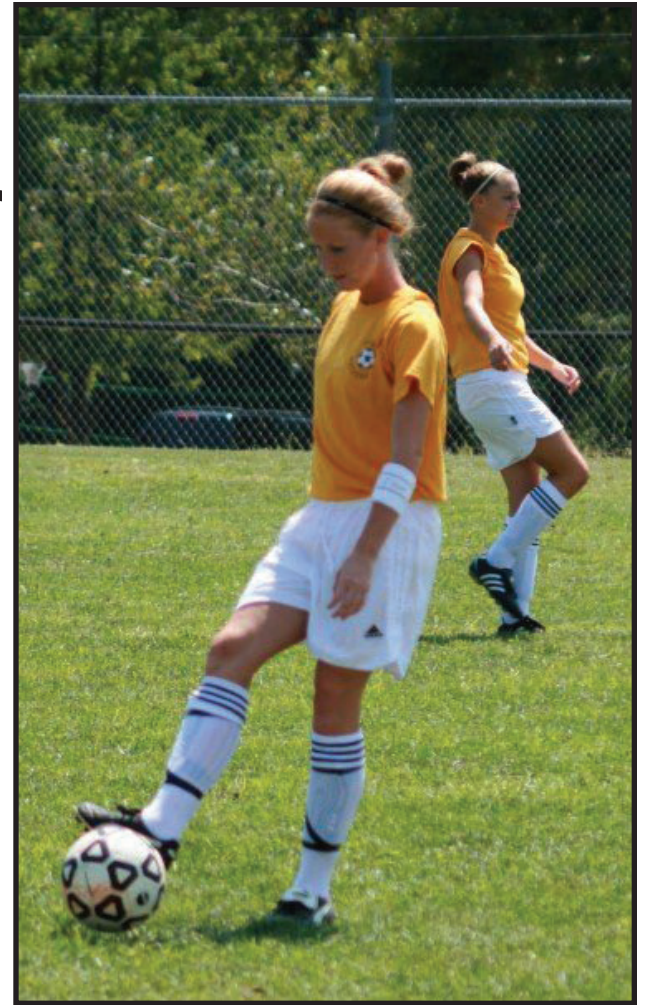
is a Senior Marketing major with a minor in Communications and is originally from Euless, Texas.

Miller started playing soccer when she was four years old on a coed team with her older brother, Chris, called the "Hot Shots." Since then she had played on competitive teams starting in junior high, all the way through college.

"My brother and parents had a great impact on me," said Miller.

Being from Dallas, which is eight hours away, her parents aren't able to come up for many games. Miller's most memorable moment playing soccer at Avila was a game her freshman year that her mom was actually able to see. Miller played a great game where she just so happened to score two goals.

"With the outrageous and entertaining girls on our team we share a lot of great memories," said Miller. "The friendships within my team have been not only life forming, but life changing."



Miller would like to thank all the girls that have been on the Avila Women's Soccer team these past four years for the memories they have shared and the experiences that none of them will forget. Also, the parents and coaches that have empowered the team to grow into better people.

"Good luck to all the Avila Soccer players that will be here to stay and remember the ones that have previously left their mark on the soccer program."

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He Said/ She Said

He Said/She Said is a section that was started last year with 2006-2007 Editor in Chief, Caitlin Stephenson. She and Joshua Loden duked it out over hot-button political issues. This year, Joshua is still with us, but Emilie

Brumit, Political Science major, will be taking over the "She said" debate. The topic for this debate is whether or citizens not born in the United States should be able to run for President

He Said Joshua Loden

When the founding fathers established America, they placed certain restrictions on who could be president in order to keep foreign influence to a minimum. Today, political campaigns are prohibited from accepting monetary contributions from non-American citizens. This is done in order to prevent foreign influence on domestic politics. The same is true for the prohibition on naturalized citizens from becoming the president.

This issue boils down to one concept: loyalty. In a country where enemies come from external and internal groups, this law insures that such a person doesn't attain the power of the president. While I admit there are naturalized citizens who have established high standards

of national service and patriotism, there are also many who haven't. To leave it up to the political process to weed out potential disloyal citizens is inadequate as the voting masses are fickle and given the right circumstance could easily propel a disloyal naturalized citizen into the oval office.

The law has served its purpose and will continue to do so as long as Americans remember the reason that the law is in place. Unforeseen problems always arise with new laws. Thus the ending question is whether Americans are willing to take the chance that potential problem will arise with this new law in order to give a few select individuals the opportunity to run for the presidency. 🐒

She Said

Emilie Brumit

Over the past few years, there has been a lot of debate over one of the requirements for being elected to the Presidency of the United States. The U.S. Constitution contains eligibility requirements for this office. The requirement in question is that to be considered for the Presidency, a person must be a natural-born citizen. One reason for this recent debate is the notable rise of Arnold Schwarzenegger, from Hollywood actor to Governor of California. Schwarzenegger is in fact Austrian born, and a naturalized citizen of the United States of America, as is Jennifer Granholm, governor of Michigan.

According to the U.S. Constitution, Article II Section I, "no person except a natural-born citizen, or citizen at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of president." This means that no one (not even the popularly elected Governor of one of the country's

largest states) who was born outside of the United States can run for President.

This article of the Constitution needs to be revised. As of the 2000 census, up to 10% of the country is ineligible to run for President because of Article II Section I. This means that 12.8 million U.S. Citizens are excluded from the right to run for president. This is denying a right to these citizens, that all of the natural-born citizens of this country retain.

These people are citizens of the United States, and as such, are supposed to be afforded all the rights of every other citizen! Yet, they are being treated as second-class citizens. By retaining Article II Section I of the U.S. Constitution, the United

States government is telling 10% of the country that they are less important than the rest of the country.

One of the biggest concerns with revising this section of Article II is that foreign powers could gain control of the United States. Post 9/11, many Americans are concerned that this could allow foreign countries

and groups to influence ours. However, what they neglect to consider is that people running for president must undergo extensive background and security checks. Also, a person must be elected to this office. It seems rather unlikely that the majority of the United States population will vote for someone who could possibly be a terrorist or tyrant.

On top of this, we have three balanced branches of government for a reason. If someone were elected who posed a threat to the country, they would not have exclusive power. The executive branch must work with the judicial and the legislative branches, and don't forget, there is still the ability of congress to impeach the president.

Revising this article means that those naturalized citizens who meet all of the other eligibility requirements have the right to run. This is a simple matter of equal rights. The principle of equal rights for all citizens is something that the United States prides itself on. Naturalized citizens should be allowed to run for president. Like every other candidate, they must prove themselves by merit and be elected.



Political Commentary

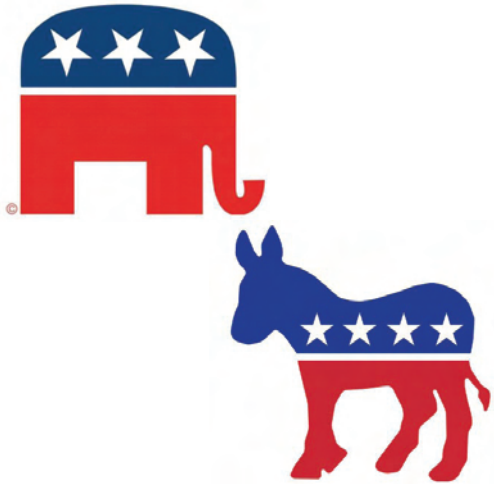
DavidWilson

Ladies and Gentlemen of the student body, and respected members of the Avila community, it is our unequivocal right to vote as American citizens. Indeed, this is true, yet it is our ability and desire to vote with the knowledge and understanding that who we elect will achieve the most good that advances our government. It is undeniable that those who are likable or hold qualities each individual can relate to will garner the most votes. Yet, when talking to a majority of educated persons about politics they no doubt express that their vote would go to the most qualified. Many are willing to go so far as to vote outside of their favored political party. Those to the far left or right are no longer dominate, there are conservative Republicans who tolerate gay marriage, and there are liberal voters who adamantly stand opposed to abortion. More now than ever, the issues are taking center stage. Even my own father, a former college professor

and dean, in response to my political inquiries said he most assuredly would not vote for someone he couldn't stand. After his response we made small talk for a little while longer and I left to drive back to my house, but it was not until several minutes later that I really thought about his statement, and it made me very scared for the future. It is a great disservice to the American people when likeability is the most audible and definitive of qualities to sway a vote. With all that is going on globally it should not matter if Hillary picks her nose, or Edwards gets an obscenely over-priced hair cut; in their defense she probably had good reason, and he can afford it. On the same token, neither should it matter that current President Bush struggles with public speaking. I would be willing to wager a large sum of money that there may only be a handful of people in all of Avila that could go before the free world and deliver even a one minute speech.

Fortunately, the mockery of Leno, Letterman, and the like brings about no action from political conferences or ethics committees. They bring about the warranted responses of aging talk show hosts who have made lucrative careers out of belittling others. The only deciding factor for the voters of America should be the issues, and it is my great pleasure to introduce an intelligible path to bipartisan education on the issues, for the issues, and by the candidates. The only safe route is a biased one, and indeed that is fitting, go to the campaign websites of each candidate they all have one, and engross. From Romney to Brownback, to Clinton and Obama, do the research and look at what these Presidential Candidates have under their fingernails. Don't look for the slander and libel that has illicitly supersaturated the media world, but rather look at the best these men and women have to offer. This is how they wish to appear and I am not saying that these aren't all delusive in nature, but they are the only level and equal presentation of information concerning the candidates. Yet, at the same time they afford the browsers access to speeches, information on the dominant issues surrounding America

today, and most insignificantly they offer a personal biography, in case one feels like voting for the cool and not the correct. Only so adamantly can it be dictated that the elections must be won or lost with the political agendas of the candidates. Therefore, I will preclude my personal oppugnancy towards any candidate if at the same time everyone will afford me that respective courtesy. As a result, if whomever I vote for loses, I will at least know that it was because a majority felt in their minds and hearts (and not in their loins or sense of humor) that the elected would help ensure the continued strengthening of America, I may be able to endure those four years.



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Linda Strelluf with veteran reporter Helen Thomas at the Association for Women in Communication conference in Orlando. Ms. Thomas has served as White House correspondent and bureau chief for UPI for 57 years. She has reported on every president since JFK.

Fighting for Words

KayleWalker

“F--- Bush!” Before you get too fired up, these aren’t my words but rather words straight out of the Colorado State University’s (CSU) student newspaper, The Rocky Mountain Collegian. The editorial was a response to the University of Florida student who was tasered during a Q&A session with John Kerry.

The editorial staff at The Collegian seemed to be rebelling against the apparent limits students have on free speech and were obviously trying to make a statement.

The controversial editorial, which actually said, “Taser this... F--- Bush!”, received national attention and Editor in Chief, David McSwane is receiving a lot of heat.

“We felt that maybe four words were more impactful than 250,” said McSwane in a segment shown on CNN’s American Morning.

The newspaper isn’t funded by the University, but it does carry the University’s name and is distributed on campus. Although it wasn’t pulled from the newsstands, the newspaper did suffer a loss of its advertisers.

The newspaper’s business manager has said the operation lost \$30,000 in advertising in the hours after the

editorial was published, and that the pay of student staffers would be cut 10 percent to compensate.

Two years ago The Talon also faced similar controversy. Although it wasn’t national attention and we weren’t saying F--- the president, it was a big deal for the Talon staff and the Avila community. The Talon is funded by the University and was pulled off the stands for inappropriate conduct.

The “unzipped” issue of The Talon was pulled for a few articles that discussed STDs, condoms and one night stands. While it is fairly typical for a college newspaper to talk about similar topics, these issues did not coincide with Avila’s Catholic values and were found to be inappropriate by the Administrators.

I have been a part of a newspaper for the past six years, and if I have learned anything it’s that giving people what they want can be challenging. You can’t please everyone and being a part of a student newspaper, your freedoms are limited. There are things that I would like to see in The Talon that students would find interesting, but may not coincide with the Avila values.

McSwane and The Collegian were just trying to be heard. I may not agree with the message they were giving,

but I think it’s amazing they got people talking. The Talon is a representation of Avila and its small community, but if the student voice isn’t heard, then it’s lost. I do not necessarily want to be controversial but I do want people to

anticipate the paper on the stands each month. The waters may be tested in the future in order to deliver news students want to see. It’s time for The Talon to stop hiding under a rock. 🦊



“Goodbye” and I Choke

WhitneyBeller

Why is it that whenever an annoying song is being overplayed on the radio you beg for its fifteen minutes to finally end, but when we’re approaching a time we know we have to say goodbye to, we fight to make it last? As May 2008 begins to come into focus I keep thinking about promises made in the last three years. Some of them went

well, some I’d like to forget, and some I have a lot of doubts in. I’ve learned that some of my favorite promises are ones that were made out of carelessness and immaturity. Unfortunately those are the ones that probably won’t hold true, but “nothing gold can stay”, right? Ponyboy grew up, and I guess I’ll have to as well. In my attempts to determine my future after graduation, every path is uncertain.

Life is meant to be unplanned: “Dream as if you’ll live forever, live as if you’ll die today”. But letting go of the comfort we find in promises is hard, why do you think so many people get married? Marriage should be the culmination of promise. We could definitely argue its current role in today’s society, but ultimately we’re all chasing after it like a glimmering green dock light illuminating

our lives like a starry summer night. By shedding light on the unknown, we thrive on that human connection to put our fears and insecurities on mute. So at some point you must make promises to yourself to supplement your promises from other people. As long as you fulfill those promises, you can’t let yourself down. 🦊



Red Rants: Avila's Weight Room...Enough Said!

Emily Hoskins



Rusty, ancient, foul smelling, inadequate, dangerous and embarrassing are all words that can be bluntly attributed to the quality of Avila University's weight room. Okay, the foul smelling part might be due to some people who I really do admire and respect but won't be named, cough cough football cough. But as for our weight room, just ask any athlete or coach at Avila and the truth shall be told. I'm not just ranting about the weight room just to blow off steam in order to avoid a rage blackout, something should be done! Not next week, not tomorrow, now. Right Meow!

One can only complain about the appearance so much until they are forced to actually use it. As an athlete myself I also have had to endure the horrific qualities of the weight room. Most of the weights are either already rusted or in the process of rusting. It's impossible to find matching dumbbells that aren't 50lbs or over. I mean, ya, of course I can lift a 75lb dumbbell with one arm. Heck I can do it with my pinky finger for that matter. Also, some of the benches meant for ab workouts are already broken and other benches have their covers tearing off. Our weight room isn't just rusting, it's plain embarrassing.

After all my workouts I look down to see my hands and clothes covered with dirty, nasty, sweaty rust and I say to myself, "I wonder how ill I could get or quite possibly die, from eating a sandwich with my hands right

now?" Now, obviously the possibility of death would be slim, but one can't help but wonder. I mean what the heck? Seriously. I'm not even going to mention the fact that for whatever reason, my high school weight room is at least twice the size of Avila's and has better equipment.

Not only should the student athletes be concerned about what they are using, but the University should be also. Rusting weights gradually become more and more dangerous and unstable over time which leads to potential accidents and injuries which then leads to.... yup, you guessed it, lawsuits. Avila wouldn't want that to happen....right? So somebody needs to step up and get something done.

Avila University prides itself on providing an education that is held to extremely high standards. So why not continue those high standards into the weight room? Okay, let me put it this way. Students use the library in order to prepare for and do well on a number of tests and projects that are given to them in the class room. Well, athletes are "trying" to use the weight room in order to do the best that they can on their field, court, or course. It could be suggested that this very weight room is hindering our athletes from performing up to their greatest potential. Yes, to some the weight room might be considered as "good enough." But would we want people to think that Avila University is only just "good enough?"

Weight Room Emilee Bilyeu

Wear and tear, rust and dust these are just a few descriptions of the conditions of Avila's weight room and fitness equipment. Athletic Director Mike Sharpe provided history on Avila's Mabree Athletic Field house, "The original building was completed in January of 1980 and the new addition was added in 2001."

The Cybex equipment was purchased when the new addition was completed making the machines 6 years old. The free weights and dumbbells were purchased a year before the Cybex machines were purchased. The current condition of the equipment based on Senior Billy Firn's assessments; "The equipment is very rusty and dirty, which I think turns a lot of people away." Compared to other fitness facilities in the area, which are used by the residents in the local community, Avila does not measure up.

Walking into the weight room students find rusty dumbbells, unracked weights, and warped bench bars. These conditions raise the question of risk to the Avila's student's health and safety while working out. "Any weight room raises safety concerns regardless of the conditions. The dirty look of the weight room makes people not want to use the equipment, and if they are athletes and do not have a well rounded lifting program then this leads to injury," said athletic trainer, Ruthanne McCreary. Being physically fit and injury free should be a coach and athlete's intention. "With the equipment being dirty it can be linked to help spread disease such as staff or pink eye," said Ruthanne. With health and safety becoming an issue, Avila's fitness facilities are compromising the wellness of the students and faculty.

Students believe it is time for change but through interviews with faculty and staff, changes in the future are questionable. "If we are aware of what is needed, we must look at the demand of use, the cost to fix/replace and our availability of funds," said Athletic Director, Mike Sharpe. If the funding is not available are there other options? Suggestions from Billy Firn, "We could find equipment that is being thrown away from major gyms and buy it for cheap." Other options to consider would be to raise funds or donations through the Alumni, student fund raising, or through the future budget of the athletic department.

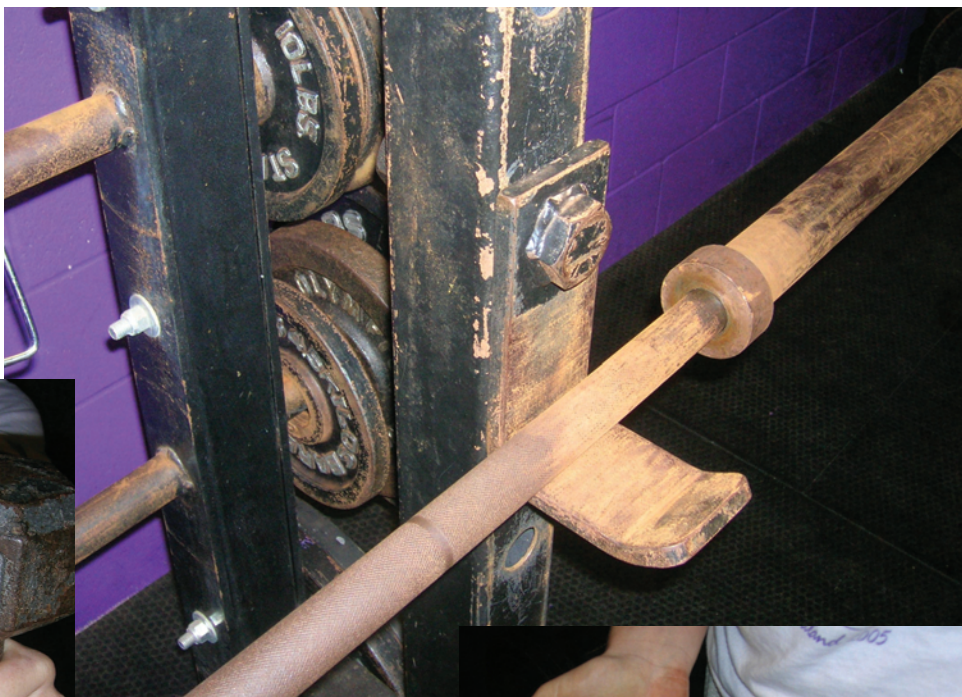
Avila's Community consists of students, faculty, and staff; they all have the privilege of using the Mabree Field House and its facilities. Students have a choice between a running- walking track, cardio machines, free weights, or Cybex weight machines. But is it worth the risk?

Note From EIC:



SOS

I think it's disappointing that over the past few years there has been at least one article in the Talon addressing the quality of the weight room and still nothing has been done. For this issue, I wanted to get the point across with TWO stories. As an athlete myself, I think it's time for something, **ANYTHING** To be done!!



Teacher Conspiracy

BuddyBlackman

There's an old popular saying about bad news coming in threes. Well, at Avila sometimes it comes in fours and fives. As the fall semester continues on its way, so do the assignments, which are assured to come at the most unexpected and inconvenient times. What's school without a dose of frustration to accompany all that stress? The problem, faithful reader, is that it's not some freak occurrence like you're led to believe. This has been happening for a sizeable chunk of time, sucking the life out of students for ages. Our great-grandparents probably sat in their chairs after walking ten miles through the snow, just to have every teacher dump time consuming assignments on them with the same due date. It's like a game for those conspirators who masquerade as teachers; whoever can give the most work at the most crucial time wins the coveted prize: The Inconsiderate of the Semester award.

In the age of instant communication via cell phones and computers, we sometimes forget that teachers too have

access. In secret chain mails and text messages, it is believed that perhaps Avila's faculty members are synchronizing due dates to test the will of the students, weeding out the weak from the strong. When confronted about this theory teachers responded typically.

"I see what you're saying," said Joyce Moore, graphic design instructor. "It's just midterms come at the same time in all classes, so the assignments generally are given around the same point." Likely

story, but we students can see right through that cunning midterm ruse.

"I gave all my work out last week, so it's not really true," says Dotty Hamilton. "I laugh at that accusation; we're not even organized enough to do that." She has a point - but that still won't deter some further investigation.

Ironically, some students

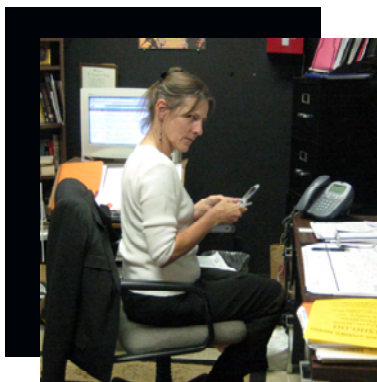
were skeptical of this scenario. However, they were still quick to agree that work generally comes served by the bundle. An empathetic teacher mentioned how she could see why a student would believe it, yet still assured the claim had no merit. Tell it to

the judge. This sounds like bashing of teachers, surely. But the problem of multi-scheduling is having to "rob Peter to pay Paul." Eventually there are so many Peters and Pauls that everyone just ends up getting short-changed. Like this article.

Do you know how good this would be if it wasn't scheduled on top of a million things (exaggeration acknowledged)?

But there is a method to it. Throughout the course of our young lives, events and situations aren't going to wait for perfect moments and convenient timing. Maybe these teachers are trying to teach us a life lesson of some sort. Perhaps by juggling all projects at once we can better prepare ourselves for

the inevitable misery of work. You teachers are better than I thought. But why stop there? We can take it. Two exams Friday? Piece of cake. Eight page research paper with MLA bibliography due Thursday? Make it ten. A speech is due Wednesday with a visual aid? Bring it. Two journalism articles are due Friday after exams? No doubt. Those teachers sure know how to get students to build character. Now let's all go out and make something of ourselves with this profound new wisdom...when we have a minute.



Nicole Esquibel may be new here at Avila, but she is already being trained by head honcho Dotty Hamilton

"It's just midterms come at the same time in all classes"

Concert Gypped

PatrickJ.Cocherl III

On October 4, 2007, I traveled all the way to Lawrence to attend a concert of one of my favorite bands, Umphrey's McGee. While I did indeed enjoy myself, I began to realize that if anyone wants to see a decent concert they have to travel at least 45 minutes, even with the Granada, Liberty Hall, the Orpheum, Sprint Center, Verizon, and Kemper. Furthermore, on top of the far too expensive ticket prices, the high gas prices contribute to the mass amount of money we give up to enjoy three to four hours of music.

Living in Leawood all my life, I understood the difficulty of close concerts, but on top of that I can view many places where a concert hall could be placed. Take Town Center Plaza for instance, it is usually very busy, there are shops around to bring in revenue, and has many restaurants where concert goers could relax and have some eats and drinks.

I understand the fact that the noise emitting from the hall around the wonderfully noise patrolled Johnson County is a risk, but imagine the potential revenue it would bring. We could finally get some acts that have avoided Kansas because of

poor ticket sales.

For instance the Foo Fighters haven't been to KC in over ten years, and they are one of America's foremost rock bands. We could get exclusive intimate acoustic shows, maybe even Dave Matthews and Tim Reynolds.

I just think it would be a nice change of pace to not have to trek 45 minutes to a run down concert hall that smells of sweat. But you know, maybe that is the draw for people. Maybe they want to experience a show like that. I

love Liberty Hall and I think it is one of the best venues for a rock concert, but it's just too far away.



Jake Cinninger (left) duels Brendan Bayliss (right) with Guitar Solos as bassist Ryan Stasik (center) looks on. They are both members of Umphrey's McGee who recently played Liberty Hall in Lawrence.

75 Foot Pine Tree or Massive Cell Tower?

Patrick Cocherl

Living near the World Headquarters of Sprint, one would think they would have great cell reception. Not true. Many friends and family members of mine are Sprint customers and they continually complain about the botched service they get in the Kansas City, Missouri Metro area.

When I was a student at Blue Valley High School, students routinely turned their phones on right after school to check messages or call friends

and family. However, being only six miles from the Headquarters, service was almost non-existent throughout the building and the parking lot.

To help solve this problem, Sprint is putting in more localized towers around the Metro. This is just what KCMO needs, ugly cell tower structures conglomerating all of the city. Now don't be too hasty, Sprint has designed a way to disguise the cell tower as a giant 75 foot pine tree.

"Ultimately all customers will pay more for a tower that looks like a tree"

The first one to be put in is at Leawood South Country Club, which is near Avila. "In Leawood and in all communities where Sprint deploys enhanced network coverage," says Miles McMillin, regional media director for Sprint. "Sprint's first option is to use existing structures to place wireless antennas. These structures could be existing buildings, existing towers or water tanks. When no existing structure is available, we look to construct a new facility."

In this point Mr. McMillin spoke about the "monopipe," the correct name for the giant pine and the process of getting it approved.

"At that point, we work closely with local agencies and community associations in following the prescribed approval process and making every effort to build a structure that has minimal aesthetic impact. In the case of Leawood, a "monopipe" facility best fits the neighborhood."

McMillin explained the decision of putting the monopipe in Leawood because of the topography. This includes all of the valleys, rolling hills, and plentiful tree coverage. Also because of the topography it is very difficult to get in-home coverage. "The result is a structure that will enhance the network coverage in the area and will blend in to the surrounding community with minimal aesthetic impact," stated McMillin.

"I suppose aesthetically it will look better than a tower, but I don't care for the precedent that it sets," said Pat Cocherl Jr., Leawood resident. "Ultimately all customers will pay more for a tower that looks like a tree," speculates Mr. Cocherl.

When asked if customers would pay for the overall cost of this tower Mr. McMillin stated that the information is proprietary. This basically means that McMillin is not allowed to share that information. When alerted of this statement, Cocherl presumed that it means a definite yes.

After seeing a picture of the monopipe,



it changed my initial reaction because at first I was not excited. After seeing the well designed pine tree, I thought it was an innovative idea to help the customer out. Never having been a Sprint customer, this does not affect me. I'll just stay with my perfect cell coverage, the new AT&T. 

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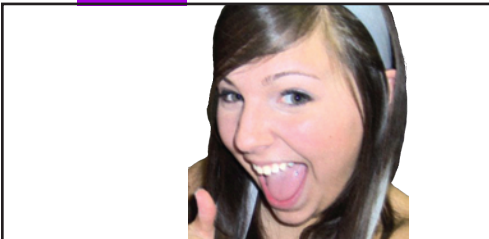


EOE/AA 

Who said Avila isn't beautiful?

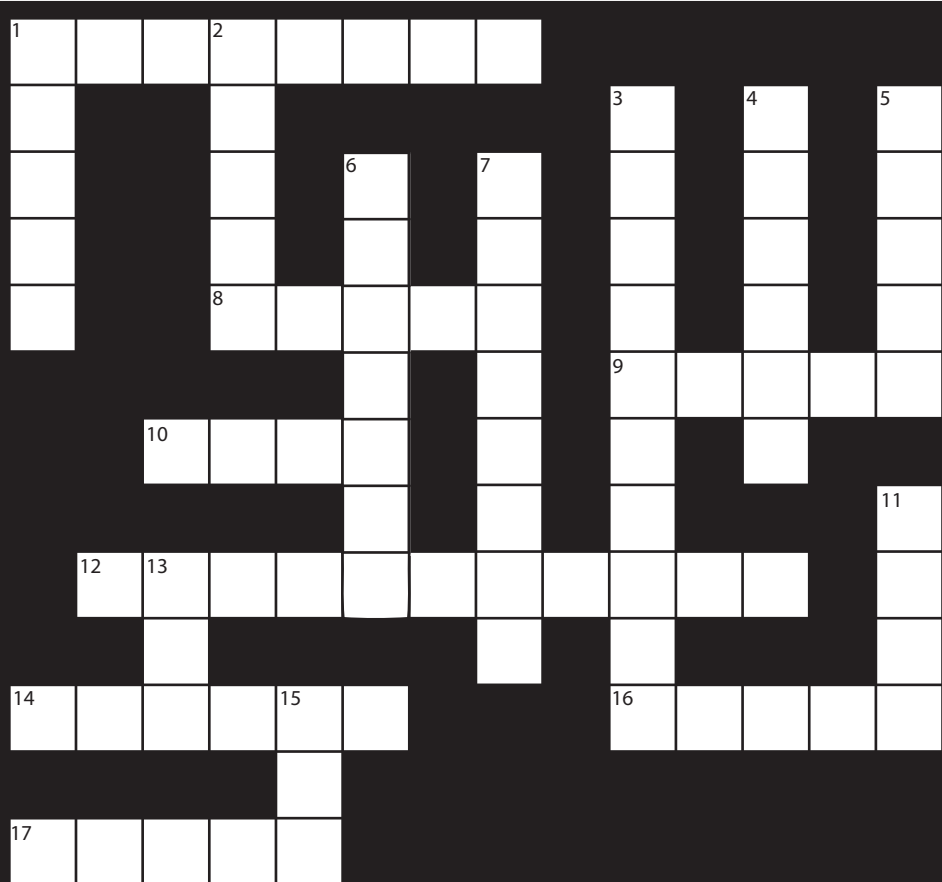
Beauty is in the eye of the beholder... or photographer!!

[featured photographer]



Morgan Decker





HALLOWEEN RIDDLES

DOWN

- 1.) What does a vampire fear most? _____ Decay.
- 2.) What did the Black cat call the mouse on roller skates? _____ on wheels.
- 3.) What kind of rocks does Frankenstein have in his collection?
- 4.) What does a ghost have for desert? I-_____.
- 5.) What is a ghouls favorite drink? _____ juice.
- 6.) Why couldn't the mummy answer the phone? Because he was all _____ up.
- 7.) What kind of key should you always take to a haunted house?
- 11.) What is Dracula's favorite fruit? A _____ - tarine!
- 13.) What kind of dog does a mad scientist have? A _____.
- 15.) Who did the Zombie invite to his party? Anybody he could _____ up.

ACROSS

- 1.) What is a skeleton's favorite instrument? A _____.
- 8.) What does a vampire never order at a restaurant? A _____ Sandwich.
- 9.) What do witches put in their hair? _____ Spray.
- 10.) What kind of music do mummies listen to?
- 12.) What type of dog do vampires like best?
- 14.) Why didn't the ghost go to the party? Because he had _____ - _____ to go with.
- 16.) What did the mommy ghost say to the baby ghost? Don't _____ until you're spooked to.
- 17.) Why are there fences around cemeteries? Because people are _____ to get in.

SCRAMBLED ANSWERS:

- ACROSS: emntboro asket acrse sohdbunldoo
ospko ginyd oyonbd
- DOWN: totoh ssomobettn smarec gdi lames
ppewrda lba mesil eseltnok kcen

